

HONORING SUE PALKA

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 27, 2010, one of my constituents will be celebrating 25 years of outstanding service to the Washington, DC metropolitan region.

WTTG Fox 5 News weather forecaster Sue Palka has been bringing Washingtonians their weather reports for decades. For those of you who have seen her, you know her for her irrepressible enthusiasm and good humor. I am proud that Sue, a resident of Gaithersburg, Maryland, is a constituent of mine.

Sue is a six-time Emmy award winner for outstanding weather forecasting and has been with Fox 5 since 1985. In 1997, she was named Broadcaster of the Year by the National Weather Association. She was featured on the cover of Washingtonian Magazine in March 2004, and on the cover of the Washington Post TV Week in July 1997 with an extensive article profiling her career. Sue received the Distinguished Alumnae Award from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 2005.

Sue has an undying passion for weather forecasting. From taking on Hurricane Bertha when it made landfall, to flying into the eye of category 4 Hurricane Edouard with the famed Hurricane Hunters, to tornado chasing in Texas and Oklahoma, Sue loves to be in the middle of the action and to share its excitement with her viewers.

I am delighted to congratulate Sue Palka, her husband Joe and daughters Elizabeth and Nora, for her 25 years of dedicated service to our community and to all visitors to the Nation's Capital.

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 1595, RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (REITs)

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 2010

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1595, which recognizes the 50th anniversary of Real Estate Investment Trusts, commonly known as REITs. I am proud to cosponsor this resolution introduced by my colleague, Representative SANDER LEVIN from Michigan and I thank him for introducing this resolution.

For 50 years, REITs have provided a way for average investors to invest in large-scale commercial properties in the same way they invest in other industries, through the purchase of equity. In addition, REITs offer investors distinct advantages such as portfolio diversification, reliable dividends, liquidity, and solid long-term performance.

Fifty years after Congress created REITs, average investors continue to benefit in the same ways as corporate stockowners, as REIT investors earn a pro-rata share of the economic benefits that are derived from the production of income through commercial real estate ownership.

It is important to recognize ways in which average investors of all ages and income levels can access the same benefits as large real estate investors. I stand with my colleague in commending the 50th anniversary of Real Estate Investment Trusts, and 50 years of providing a broad range of investors an opportunity to achieve the investment goals of diversification, strong and reliable dividends, liquidity, solid performance, and transparency.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE
PROGRAM REEXTENSION ACT OF
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the issue of flooding raised by the National Flood Insurance Program Reextension Act of 2010 before us today. Although it is critical that we pass this legislation to ensure that flood insurance remains available to those in flood prone areas, this reextension is not the ultimate solution. Congress has followed a dangerously inconsistent stopgap approach of short-term fixes to the National Flood Insurance Program, or NFIP, for almost 2 years now.

We need a permanent solution for the sake of my constituents and all Americans in flood-prone regions. Too frequently, the NFIP has been allowed to lapse. The House recently passed a bill which would address this issue by providing long-term authorization for the NFIP. This type of solution is necessary to provide certainty in real estate markets and the greater economy, as thousands of potential real estate transactions were stalled every day during the 53 days this year which the program lapsed.

These issues further damage our economy, as homeowners in the flood-prone areas of more than 20,000 communities across the U.S. could not obtain mortgages without the critical flood insurance made available through NFIP. In these regions, homeowners face a one in four chance that their property will suffer flood damage over the life of a 30-year mortgage.

My constituents and I are all too familiar with the issue of flooding. The Passaic River basin in my district is a historically flood-prone region, and the rapid growth of population and industry in that region has made the threat of loss of property and life a serious problem. Since 1900, at least 26 lives have been lost in floods and the total losses over that period are over \$4.5 billion.

Just this March, the residents of the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey along the Passaic basin suffered some of the most extensive flooding in the region to have occurred in the last quarter century. Approximately 2,500 residents in the district were forced from their homes and the estimated damage to the public sector alone is over \$10 million dollars. These events resulted in a Federal Disaster Declaration issued by President Obama. All across this country, access to flood insurance is an absolute necessity just as it is in the Passaic River basin.

If Congress does not act now, the flood insurance program will expire once again on

September 30, at the peak of hurricane season. Madam Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I ask you today to join me in passing this bill. However, we must dedicate ourselves to finding a permanent solution for those Americans adversely affected by flooding. The people of my district need a long-term extension of the flood insurance program—and they need to know that the flood insurance program will always be there for them. While we are working to mitigate the damage caused by floods, this program remains essential for those tragic times when nature takes over. With homes in my district and in every flood-prone part of the country in harm's way, it is simply too dangerous to risk disaster because we failed once again to extend the National Flood Insurance Program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 534, 535, and 536. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 534, 535, and 536.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF DOMINIQUE NOTH, EDITOR,
MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 2010

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dominique Paul Noth and the Milwaukee Labor Press. The Milwaukee Labor Press provides news, features, commentary, and information on important issues and events. In late August, editor Dom Noth and the Labor Press won the most multiple awards in the history of the International Labor Communications Association. The Milwaukee Labor Press has continued its legacy of excellence by proving successful in the most intense and prestigious North American contest for all labor publications.

As the second largest home-delivered newspaper in Wisconsin, the Labor Press consistently speaks honestly to its readers. The ILCA awarded the Labor Press First Place, General Excellence among all state and central council publications. ILCA praised the Labor Press for "Quirky and interesting writing, [. . .] makes points without being preachy."

MilwaukeeLabor.org the website of the Labor Press' publisher, Milwaukee Area Labor Council, received First Place General Excellence Internet. News, Take Action, events, and original content by Dominique Noth are featured on the website. Dominique is an intrepid seeker of newsworthy information, camera at the ready, quotes in context forming in his mind.

Last December's examination of the health care debate in the article, "Heeding the Human Cost," was honored with the First Place Saul Miller Award. Noth attributes this success to diverse opinions of union and community members in a no-holds-barred forum